

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by correcting a typographical error.

Claims 2, 5, 9-13, 16-18, 20-23, 27-30, 32, 34-38, and 40-69 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claim 6 has been amended to depend on Claim 1.

Applicants' assignee has discovered that Kazuo Mitsuhashi, not named as a coinventor herein, **may** have made an inventive contribution to one or more of the previous pending claims. However, Applicants' assignee has verified that Mr. Mitsuhashi made no inventive contribution to any of the now-pending claims. Applicants' assignee reserves the right to file a continuation with one or more of the above-canceled claims, with a correction of inventorship, as appropriate.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 14, 15, 19, 24-26, 31, 33 and 39 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney and Applicants' assignee's representative during the interview held March 22, 2005, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney discussed with the Examiner the rejection of Claim 68 under formal grounds and ways of overcoming the rejection. However, the discussion is moot in view of the above-discussed amendment.

The rejections of claims over prior art, and of Claims 68 and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to satisfy the written description requirement therein, are respectfully traversed, in view of the cancellation of all such rejected claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

The objection to Claim 7 as being a substantial duplicate of Claim 4 is respectfully traversed. Claim 7 recites two layers, an inner and outer layer, of particulate resin. Claim 4 recites **at least** two layers of particulate resin (emphasis added). Clearly, the above-emphasized term highlights the difference in claim scope between the two claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The objection to the specification at page 47, line 21 is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the objection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

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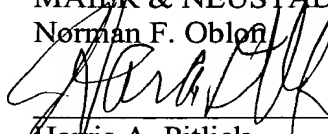
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-6, 8-26, 31, 33, 35, 36, 39, 41, 43 and 45-56. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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